MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 FEBRUARY 1981

Reaction to Brezhnev Speech

Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim welcomed Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's call, in his speech to the 26th CPSU Congress opening session, for a specially convened international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all interested parties, including the PLO. In his remarks, reported by PETRA-JNA, Al-Qasim also described Brezhnev's stated readiness to cooperate with the European states as a "positive and constructive stand" that constitutes an encouragement of the European initiative. Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran received the Soviet ambassador in Amman, PETRA-JNA reported, and asked him to convey Jordan's thanks to the Soviet Government for its stand on the Middle East issue. According to Amman radio, the newspapers AD-DUSTUR and AR-RA'Y also welcomed Brezhnev's remarks on the Middle East. AD-DUSTUR said the Soviet initiative, which came at the "right time and in the right form," is worthy of "serious consideration" and is a "positive response." AR-RA'Y said any Soviet move should neither preclude nor be precluded by a joint European initiative on the Middle East. It is essential, the newspaper added, that a "common ground" be found so that the Arabs can benefit from both Soviet and European moves.

Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with the Soviet Ambassador in Beirut and conveyed his "profound appreciation" for Brezhnev's speech to the CPSU Congress, particularly for what the Soviet leader said about the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. 'Arafat described Brezhnev's "constructive" stand as a "suitable and acceptable basis" for a "just and firm" Middle East settlement that would eliminate Israel's "aggression" against the Palestinians and the Arab nation.

On the other hand, an editorial in the Egyptian newspaper AL-AKBAR, reviewed by Cairo radio, described Brezhnev's proposals as "irrelevant and unimportant" and said they should not be taken seriously. Brezhnev's aim is to impose Soviet tutelage on the Palestinians, AL-AKBAR asserted, and, noting his refusal to withdraw Soviet forces from Afghanistan, described the Soviet presence there as the source of "all tension and agitation" in the Middle East.

Iran

Nobari on Assets--Citing a press statement issued in Tehran, AFP reported that Central Bank Governor 'Ali Reza Nobari said not one "penny" of Iranian assets frozen in U.S. banks has yet been returned. Asserting that the Reagan administration has not fully respected "some aspects" of the Algiers agreement, Nobari claimed that the United States has not "made a single step" toward unfreezing and returning Iranian assets.

British Missionaries--AFP reported that the three British missionaries held in Iran for more than 6 months on spying charges were taken to Tehran airport and were expected to leave for Paris. Earlier, Islamic revolution Prosecutor General 'Ali Qoddusi said in an interview broadcast by Tehran radio that although the missionaries have been cleared of the charges against them, "we do not intend to exonerate the church and the bishopric," which have opposed Iran's Islamic revolution. Qoddusi also pointed out that two Iranian students are being held in Great Britain and claimed that they have been "ill-treated."

Rafsanjani Interview--Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told a Central News Bureau correspondent that UN special envoy Olof Palme wanted Iran to take a position toward Iraq that would allow Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn to claim that he had at least brought Iran to the negotiating table. In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Rafsanjani said Iranian officials told Palme that Husayn should be punished rather than be allowed to "justify his aggression."

Referring to recent domestic developments, Rafsanjani expressed the hope that President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr will condemn those who disrupt meetings in his name and "on his behalf" and that he will ask the authorities to put an end to such acts. Rafsanjani also criticized those who go on strike in support of "unreasonable" demands during wartime.

Strike Ends--Tehran radio reported that the drivers of Tehran and Suburbs United Bus Company announced they are to resume work, having discovered and denounced the "conspiracies of the counterrevolutionaries. The decision follows a strong appeal for an end to their strike by Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that Islamic revolution guards in Dezful claimed they shot down an Iraqi MiG west of the Karkheh Kur River, while Baghdad radio said an Iraqi airborne unit attacked Iranian forces in the Shush region, killing 21 and returning safely to base. Both radios also reported continued sporadic clashes and exchanges of fire along all western and southern fronts.

Iraq

According to Baghdad radio, Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi met with Christoph van der Klaauw, president of the EC Council of Ministers, to discuss the European initiative on the Middle East. Ibrahim stressed Iraq's willingness to cooperate with the EC states to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Israel

Shamir Interview--Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in a Jerusalem radio interview, said that his "extremely friendly" talk with U.S. President Ronald Reagan lived up to expectations and that the President confirmed all the conclusions reached in Shamir's previous talks with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Shamir said there is no disagreement between Israel and the United States over the priority to be given to the Middle East problem and noted that Secretary Haig will visit the Middle East in the "very near future." He said that no decision has yet been made about visits to Washington by Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. Shamir also told the radio that in his talks with U.S. leaders, he expressed Israel's "total opposition" to the further supply of aircraft equipment to Saudi Arabia and pointed out the need for U.S. assistance to maintain Israel's "qualitative superiority" in the Middle East balance of forces.

Begin Remarks--Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Begin, reacting to recent U.S. Government statements that the Middle East should not be given top priority, stressed that the constant turmoil in the Middle East requires the world to treat the region as a central issue. Begin also said that while he is opposed to the postponement of the tripartite autonomy talks, he does not know whether the U.S. administration favors postponement.

Egypt

President Anwar as-Sadat received Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Qais Zawawi, MENA reported, who delivered a message from Oman's Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id Al Bu Sa'id on bilateral and regional issues.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL, RASHIDOV VISIT LENIN'S MAUSOLEUM

LD230610 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] Kabul, 22 Feb (BAKHTAR)--Babrak Karmal, general secretary of PDPA CC, chairman of the Revolution Council and DRA prime minister, accompanied by Rashidov, alternate member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Uzbekistan, laid a wreath of flowers at Lenin's mausoleum.

PDPA OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

AU232145 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 20 Feb 81 p 5

[CTK correspondent: "Kabul: Afghanistan Ready For Direct Negotiations"--capitalized passages published in boldface]

[Text] We support the anti-imperialist position of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference, held in New Delhi, its condemnation of the policy of hegemonism, and its positions on the Middle East and U.S. military bases in the world, said (Mohammad Safi), deputy head of the International Department of the PDPA Central Committee, in an interview given to CTK correspondent [Peter Frankl] in Kabul. The conference showed that reactionary forces have not given up their hopes and are trying to continue to pressure the nonaligned countries and to drive a wedge between them. The United States wants to maneuver some of the nonaligned countries into antisocialist positions. The DRA delegation in New Delhi was prepared for direct, bilateral negotiations with Pakistan and with Iran, but the Iranian and Pakistani delegations did not agree to this.

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DRA, OUR COUNTRY CONDUCTS A NONALIGNED POLICY, IS FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT AND RESPECTS THE UN CHARTER, (M. Safe) continued. IT IMPLEMENTS A POLICY THAT IS ACAINST IMPERIALISM, WAR, ZIONISM, COLONIALISM AND APARTHEID. AS A RESULT, IT NATURALLY COMES INTO CONFLICT WITH THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES, CHINA AND THE OTHER CAPITALIST FORCES.

We have submitted, at press conferences, materials on the interference by international reactionary forces in our internal affairs. According to our information, there are 50 counterrevolutionary and 30 military training camps in Pakistan. The instructors are Chinese, Egyptian and Pakistani. Some of the counterrevolutionaries had been sent to the FRG for training. The bandits are equipped with weapons from the United States, Egypt, China and other countries, (M. Safi) stressed.

Asked what objectives the reactionary forces pursue with their anti-DRA policy, the deputy head of a department of the PDPA Central Committee said that IMPERIALISTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN AFGHANISTAN. AFTER THE GREAT OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLUTION, CAPITALIST POWERS WANTED TO CREATE A "SECURITY" CORDON AROUND THE USSR. LATER, THEY WERE STRIVING TO MAKE AFGHANISTAN BECOME A MEMBER OF THEIR REACTIONARY PACTS AND THEIR MILITARY ALLY, BUT AFGHANISTAN ALWAYS REFUSED TO JOIN THE MILITARIST PLANS OF IMPERIALISM. After the fall of the shah's regime, when the imperialists could no longer use Iran as a gendarme in that part of the world, they tried to win over another country for that role, and Afghanistan played an important part in those plans.

As regards relations between the USSR and the DRA, (M. Safi), pointed out that the two countries have had long and friendly relations. After all these years, the population of that part of the world could convince itself that the USSR has always been helping Afghanistan. Projects that the Soviet Union built in our country before the April revolution have contributed to the upsurge of Afghanistan, of its national economy, and to an increase in the population's standard of living.

Any state, when it feels threatened from outside, has the right to ask a friendly country for help. The USSR has granted aid to Afghanistan at the Afghan Government's request. This aid is in full accord with the Soviet-Afghan treaty and the UN Charter, (M. Safi) noted. One has to see, above all, what would have happened if the Soviet help had not come. The counterrevolutionary and imperialist forces' plot went so far as to threaten the sovereignty and the very existence of Afghanistan.

Answering a question about the possibility of settling relations between the DRA, Pakistan and Iran, (M. Safi) emphasized that the DRA strives to resolve any contentious issue through negotiations. This also arises from the basic principles of the DRA. The DRA's proposals of 14 May 1980 are also in that spirit.

WHEN STUDYING PAKISTAN'S AND IRAN'S ANSWERS TO OUR PROPOSAL, WE MUST SAY THAT THEY ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. WE ARE IN FAVOR OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND WITH IRAN SEPARATELY, WITHOUT ANY PRECONDITIONS. THAT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS WITH PAKISTAN AND WITH IRAN. WE FAVOR GOOD, PEACEFUL NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS, (M. Safi) stressed.

DEFENSE MINISTER RAFI' ON ARMY ACTIVITIES

LD192010 Budapest MTI in English 1700 GMT 19 Feb 81

[By MTI correspondent Karoly Patak]

[Text] Kabul, 19 Feb (MTI)--Afghan Defense Minister Mohammad Rafi', member of the Revolution Council and the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, received for an interview the special correspondent of the Hungarian News Agency.

Concerning the allegation of Afghanistan's enemies that there is in fact no Afghan Army, Rafi' said: "It is a pure fabrication, the propaganda of our enemies wants to make the world believe that the achievements of the revolution are defended by Soviet forces. Not only is the Afghan armed force in existence, but its striking force and combat-readiness is even greater than it was before the revolution. It is common knowledge that we have got the advisory, organizational, training and other military assistance on the basis of legal agreements with the Soviet Union. The Soviet military units stationed here, with whom we carry on exemplary cooperation, mean to us the good reserve should it come to forestalling a possible act of foreign aggression. The general military tasks are fulfilled by our armed forces."

Speaking about the security situation in Afghanistan, he said: "In the past year our armed forces and security units eliminated the major organized groups of counterrevolutionaries and ordinary criminals. Gangs of lesser importance are still at work here and there, and our armed forces and security units are taking the necessary measures against them. I can assure you that we shall do away with these gangs in six months' time, and the Afghan people will again be able to live and work in peace. Let me put it clear: The main duty of the Afghan Army today is to maintain order, control and not to create it. The border regions receive the greatest amount of attention. Chinese, American and Pakistani instructors are said to train big numbers of people in Pakistani territory to be thrown over later on sabotage missions. This is why we keep increasing our vigilance and combat-readiness."

Regarding the new defense act, Mohammad Rafi' pointed out: "In the past the drafting age ranged from 22 to 48 years, which the new act reduced to 20-35 years."

'One of the measures designed to make soldiers' life easier is that their mails will be forwarded free of charge. From now on, volunteers remaining in service will get a respectable pay. If a secondary school leaver volunteers for the land or the air force, he will be admitted to the university without entrance examination after discharge,' concluded the interview the Afghan defense minister.

PAP INTERVIEWS NUR AHMAD NUR ON PDPA RECRUITMENT

LD232305 Warsaw PAP in English 1419 GMT 23 Feb 81

[By PAP correspondent Ryszard Piekarowicz]

[Text] Kabul, 23 Feb (PAP)--The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, now healing the wounds inflicted by factional divisions of 1978-79, views the flow of new members as a factor accelerating the strengthening of unity inside the party.

Nur Ahmad Nur, secretary of the party's Central Committee, told the PAP correspondent that to the new party members the bickering and animosities of the leftist policy of Hafizollah Amin, overthrown in 1979, are something alien. Therefore, already their presence in the party helps to draw the attention of the remaining party membership to the current tasks of the country and the struggle against counter-revolution.

Nur said that during the past 6 months the party ranks had increased by 25 percent. He also said that the new members were people who came to the party not to secure well-cushioned positions in the administration, but to fight the enemy. Nur added that for the first time workers and peasants in large numbers were joining the party.

The People's Democratic Party, founded in 1965, for many years used to draw largely the intelligentsia and radically-minded officers. The working class in Afghanistan is still small. Having won power in 1978, the party had weakened itself as a result of ill-considered purges undertaken by the then leadership prompted by Amin. These purges accompanied by repressions affected most of its activists during the one and a half years up to December 1979. After the overthrow of Amin and the removal of his closest associates from the party, the party unity was restored. Nur said that the regional party committees were now operating in all the country's districts and towns. The numbers of basic party organizations were growing. Most of the activists were below 30.

JUDGES, PROSECUTORS LEAVE FOR USSR 20 FEB

GF201701 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] A group of 51 judges and prosecutors left for the Soviet Union today on a visit. During the visit a study of the Soviet judicial system will be made. The group was seen off at Kabul International Airport by a number of Justice Ministry and Supreme Court officials.

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY, USSR TRADE GROUP SIGN ACCORD

LD222336 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] The contract for the arrival of a number of Soviet experts in Afghanistan was signed today in the hall of the Ministry of Public Works between the Ministry of Public Works and the Soviet foreign trade association, Tekhnostroyeksport.

Under the contract, the expenses of which are financed by a loan from the friendly USSR, the experts will come to Kabul for 2 months and will cooperate with the production units of the Ministry of Public Works in technical and economic studies of construction materials, within the relevant departments.

The contract was signed by the director of planning and evaluation of the Public Works Ministry for Afghanistan and by the economic attache of the embassy in Kabul for the USSR.

NATURAL GAS COMPANY OFFICIALS RETURN FROM MOSCOW

LD202100 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] The country's revenue from the sale of natural gas to the friendly USSR in 1981 will be over 13.5 billion afghanis. This is 4 billion more than in 1980. This was disclosed to a BAKHTAR correspondent by the chairman of the delegation who had gone to Moscow for talks and to sign a contract on the export of DRA natural gas in 1981, on his return home.

Engineer Nawabi, director of the Afghanistan National Oil Company and chairman of the Afghan delegation added: After a series of talks with the responsible authorities of the USSR, which were held in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding, the export price of Afghanistan's natural gas for the year 1981 was evaluated and approved on the basis of the current international standard. Thus, a noticeable increase was made in the gas price.

During its stay in Moscow, the Afghan delegation visited a number of institutions which, in the development of Afghan oil and gas, have developed economic and technical cooperation with the Institute of Afghanistan National Oil Company. Fruitful discussions on matters of mutual interest were held.

CUBAN PEASANT UNION GREETS AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

LD192350 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Feb 81

[Telegram sent by the Cuban National Peasant Union to the DRA Council of Agricultural Cooperatives--date not given]

[Text] The National Peasant's Union of Cuba, on behalf of all Cuban peasants, conveys its sincere greetings, on the occasion of the first congress of agricultural cooperatives of the DRA, to the Central Council of Agricultural Cooperatives of the DRA.

We wish you further successes in the application of such a necessary matter for the peasants and the toiling people of Afghanistan, and hope for the strengthening and development of comradely and friendly relations between the National Peasant Union of Cuba and the Central Council of Agricultural Cooperatives of the DRA.

[Signed] The National Peasant Committee [as heard] of Cuba

KENYAN PRESIDENT MOI CONTINUES VISIT TO INDIA

Reddy, Moi Address Banquet

BK250341 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] India and Kenya have reaffirmed that all disputes between nations should be solved through peaceful means, based on respect for territorial integrity. President Sanjiva Reddy and President Daniel T. Arap Moi expressed anxiety at increasing threats to world peace. They said the two countries should come closer and strive for the restructuring of the present unjust international economic order.

Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting dignitary, President Reddy called upon littoral and hinterland states to keep up a united front during the Indian Ocean conference, to be held in Sri Lanka later this year. President Arap Moi said that his country is especially concerned that the Indian Ocean should remain a zone of peace. He also praised India's continued support to SWAPO, the legitimate representative of the Namibian people, in their liberation struggle.

Mr Arap Moi stressed the need to maintain solidarity within the Third World. He said the people of Indian origin have made tremendous contribution to the development of Kenya.

President Reddy and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi have accepted invitations to pay official visits to Kenya. The invitations were extended by the Kenyan president during his meeting in New Delhi yesterday with them.

Agreement-Signing Ceremony

BK241708 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] India and Kenya have signed three agreements covering trade, technical and economic cooperation, education and culture. The agreements were signed in New Delhi today, in the presence of visiting Kenyan President Dr Daniel Arap Moi and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi.

The trade agreement, signed by Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Kenyan Minister for Industry D. M. Waiyaki, envisages setting up of a joint committee to help expand and diversify the trade between the two countries. It provides for most-favored-nation treatment and seeks to encourage direct trade.

The economic and technical cooperation agreement, signed by External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao and Kenyan Minister of State Biwott, lays special emphasis on the exchange of personnel in the fields of engineering, medicine, education and agriculture.

The cultural agreement, signed by Education Minister S.B. Chavan and Kenyan Minister for Education J.J. Kamotho, seeks to develop closer relations in the field of art, education and research, and training in the fields of science and technology, sports, public health and mass media.

PETROLEUM MINISTER OUTLINES OIL PRODUCTION PLANS

BK250009 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1735 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] On 24 February Minister for Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers P.C. Sethi stated in the Lok Sabha in a written reply to a question that during the sixth 5-year plan approved recently rupees 2,873.58 crores are proposed to be spent on oil exploration. This financial outlay includes rupees 20 crores for the research and development program of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC].

Some of the promising areas, like shoals and estuaries, which could not be taken up hitherto due to logistic problems, will also be explored by engaging specialised contracting agencies. The total exploratory drilling envisaged by the ONGC and Oil India in the onland basins is on the order of 300 wells comprising 882,700 meters.

In respect of offshore exploration, Oil India is expected to continue their exploratory program in the Mahanadi Delta area. The ONGC will continue exploration in the Bombay offshore basin extending the limits to deeper waters. ONGC also proposes to explore the structures offshore of Saurashtra in the Gulf of Kutch, the Andaman and Nicobar Shelf, as well as the east coast basins like Palk Bay and the Krishna-Godavari Basins. The ONGC plans to increase the number of offshore rigs to drill about 95 exploratory wells in different offshore areas during the plan period.

The minister said that besides full development of the Bombay high field, development of other structures, namely the R-12, south basin and north basin fields, B-37, B-38 structures, would also be carried out during the plan period. ONGC and Oil India efforts will be supplemented by leasing out selected blocks to reputed foreign oil companies on participation contracts or joint ventures.

[Delhi Domestic Service in English at 0830 GMT on 23 February in a related report added: "Sethi told the Rajya Sabha during question time today that crude production in India is going to rise up to 17 million tons during 1981-82 from the present level of 12 million tons."]

MINISTER ACCUSES PRC OF BUILDING PAKISTANI AIR BASES

BK250810 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that the government has information that some air bases are being built in Pakistan with Chinese assistance. Replying to questions, Minister of State for Defense Shivraj Patil assured the house that the government is taking due precautions. He, however, said it is not necessary to lodge any protest in this connection, nor is there any need to seek assistance of the Soviet Union or other countries to meet the threat of Sino-Pakistan collaboration.

Mr Patil said it is possible for India to protect its interests without outside assistance. Despite persistent questions from opposition benches, the minister declined to disclose details about the Chinese-aided air bases in Pakistan. Members had asked whether any of these bases are located in Indian territories occupied by Pakistan or China. Mr Patil refused to give any detail, in the public interest.

COMMUNIST FACTIONS CALL FOR ANTI-GANDHI FRONT

OW232031 Hong Kong AFP in English 2023 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] New Delhi, 23 Feb (AFP)--Several factions of the Nexalites or pro-Beijing extremist communists have jointly called upon other opposition parties to unitedly fight the "autocratic" rule of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandni's government.

The joint call followed a meeting of 13 factions of the extremists for the first time jointly recently. Reports quoted Satya Narain Singh, general secretary of the Communist Party of India, Marxist-Leninist (CPI-ML), one of the factions, as saying at Patna, capital of the eastern Bihar state, today that their joint meeting was a "significant development" towards unification of all revolutionary parties. "...Many more developments will now take place," he was further quoted as saying, without illustrating.

The minister said that onshore exploration work is to be intensified in the Assam Arakan, Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery Basins and the pace of exploration in the Cambay Basin will be maintained. Sethi said that exploration in West Bengal, the Banges Valley, Himalayan foothills, Rajasthan, Orissa coast and other areas is proposed to be suitably stepped up.

ZIAUL HAQ TO JOIN ISLAMIC GULF PEACE MISSION

BK250834 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that he will leave for Jidda tomorrow to join an eight-member Islamic mission, formed to bring about a reconciliation between Iran and Iraq. He said this while talking to newsmen after addressing the graduation parade of the Army Aviation School this morning at [word indistinct], near Rawalpindi.

The president said the mission will go to Tehran on Saturday [28 February] and to Baghdad on Monday [2 March]. He said: We are undertaking this mission with great expectations and we are hopeful that both countries will agree to a cease-fire.

Referring to his visit to both countries and the efforts of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries, the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations, the president said the purpose of these efforts is to somehow end the fighting between the two Muslim countries. He said although both countries are aware of their heavy losses in the war, they continue to adopt a very rigid stand. However, he said, our efforts are aimed at a cease-fire. He said he has already consulted with other members of the mission via telephone. He said he is optimistic about the outcome of the visit.

Answering a question about national affairs, the president said federal and provincial cabinets will soon be constituted, beginning with the federal cabinet. He said he may say something about the federal cabinet tomorrow. Concerning the federal council, he said he hopes to have it constituted by next month.

When asked about the current situation in educational institutions, the president said the majority of students want to pay attention to their studies, but, unfortunately, politics has been injected into the educational institutions. He said both foreign and internal agents were involved in this and they are trying to use the younger generation in their nefarious designs, which are against the national interest. Answering a question about foreign agents, the president said we must improve our own situation.

PRC ENVOY TO PAKISTAN URGES THIRD WORLD UNITY

OW241816 Hong Kong AFP in English 1743 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Karachi, 24 Feb (AFP)--The Chinese ambassador in Pakistan, Mr Xu Yuxin, said here today that the Third World countries must unite to face the dangers of hegemonism and imperialism from the superpowers.

Asked to comment on Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev's speech at the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party in Moscow, the Chinese ambassador said the full text of Mr Brezhnev's speech was not yet available. Only a few points had been reported in the world press; however, it was a false notion that the two superpowers could together solve all the international problems. Time for superpower monopoly over international affairs had passed. Now these problems could only be solved jointly by all countries of the world, the ambassador added.

Earlier, speaking at the Pakistan Institute of Foreign Relations, Mr Xu Yuxin said the overwhelming majority of the United Nations members were Third World countries. These countries must get united and set aside their mutual differences and disputes in the larger interest.

The Chinese ambassador denounced the Soviet armed intervention in Afghanistan and described it as part of a southward thrust to reach the warm waters and gain control of the strategically important areas around the oil-producing Persian Gulf states.

Mr Xu Yuxin said China pursued a policy of uniting the developing nations of the Third World against international hegemonism. China had never sought to become a superpower, nor would it seek hegemonism in any region. China was seeking peaceful development both within and abroad. He said China's close cooperation with Pakistan in the political, economic, cultural and military fields would continue as before. Both countries would continue to have mutual consultations on matters of common interest.

JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITS PAKISTAN

Arrival in Islamabad

BK250342 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] A five-member Japanese parliamentary delegation arrived in Islamabad last evening on a 3-day visit to Pakistan. The delegation will call on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and will hold talks with the secretary general of foreign affairs. The Japanese delegation will also visit a tent camp of Afghan refugees in the Northwest Frontier Province.

Refugee Camp Visit

BK250346 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] The visiting Japanese parliamentary delegation saw an Afghan refugee tent village at Nasirbagh, near Peshawar, this morning. Talking to refugees, leader of the delegation Masatoshi Kusunoki said that the people of Japan share the feelings of the Afghan refugees. He referred to the similar refugee problem in Japan, after the people residing in the four islands occupied by the Soviet Union were (?uprooted) from their homes. He expressed the hope that the foreign troops in Afghanistan will be withdrawn and the refugees will be able to return to their homes in safety and honor. In this context, he assured every possible cooperation by the government and the people of Japan.

UAE PRESIDENT VISITS LAHORE, LUNCHES WITH ZIAUL HAQ

BK241555 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq returned to Rawalpindi this afternoon following a brief visit to Lahore. In Lahore, he attended a luncheon given in his honor by President of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayan.

ANXIETY EXPRESSED ON TREATMENT OF IRANIANS IN U.S.

GF241201 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] The Swiss ambassador in Tehran met with brother Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Prime Minister's political adviser, today.

Brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave examples of the savage and inhuman conduct against Iranians in the United States, particularly students. He also expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's anxiety about the fate of Iranians in the United States, particularly students.

RAFSANJANI ON PALME MISSION, DOMESTIC UNREST

LD242340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, in an interview given to a Central News Bureau correspondent, described the results of talks with Olof Palme, the special envoy of the UN secretary general, the Majlis' opinion on disruption of order at meetings and during speeches, and bills connected with the problem of housing and urban wasteland. We now draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Rafsanjani, concerning your meetings with Olof Palme, as he has made many trips to Iran I would like to ask: Will this trip finally bring some results?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr Palme has produced some results during this trip since, toward the end of his visit, I said to him: This time you have repeated once again all of the things that you said last time and we have already replied to these things and had our discussions. He did not say anything new. In short, the conclusion reached was that he thought--in other words, his impression was--that the war has reached an impasse, that Saddam has committed some aggression, but that there is no way for him to turn back and, if he were to return, he could not answer the Iraqi nation and thus Iran should adopt a stance whereby he could turn back. In other words, Iran should give something to enable him to return and say: I went to war but I have also achieved something. At least, I have dragged Iran to the negotiating table.

Our attitude was that as a revolutionary nation we could not permit an aggressor to justify his aggression to his nation. He should be punished. In our conversation with Mr Palme, we said: Instead of dragging on with these discussions, you ought to find out who the aggressor is, how one should act toward the aggressor, and what the proper punishment for an aggressor is, so that this would at least be an object lesson to others in future, so that they would not embark on aggression.

[Question] My next question is in connection with the disruption of order at meetings and during speeches, which is carried out by only a few people. Remember that these few people have already been identified after a fashion and that the responsible authorities in the country have unanimously condemned this problem. Even though the leader of the revolution, in his message, has once again completely condemned this problem, no decisive steps, unfortunately, have been taken to prevent such action. If possible, could you please tell us how one should deal with this problem?

[Answer] In my opinion, the responsible authorities in the country--the police, the revolution corps, the gendarmerie and the courts--should react decisively, should identify these elements and should punish them.

We are fully acquainted with the techniques for creating an unhealthy atmosphere of provocation and tension and how these are applied. Counterrevolution's strategy in Iran is currently aimed at bringing about circumstances whereby it can demonstrate that there is no legal or even moral security in society; and counterrevolution is implementing its designs by various means. It carries out unlawful actions in order to place the government in a dilemma, so that whatever it does counterrevolution will be able to play a different tune. They thought of reducing these meetings to riots. If the judicial authorities were to intervene and if the active arms of law, that is, the police and the revolution guard corps--of course, the corps is the active arm of the revolution courts--and the gendarmerie, were to intervene and the committees were to use force, the people would chant slogans of "Violence," "Dictatorship" and similar things. But if these organs were to refrain from intervening, this insecurity would continue. We are certain that the hands of the enemies are primarily responsible for disrupting these meetings. Of course, I realize that ignorant friends might also lose their patience at times and commit such acts.

Right from the very first days when these actions began, we would very much have liked to see all of the country's responsible authorities, those having no responsibilities, and personalities come forward and denounce such actions. As you may know, this course of events began at the time of Mr Beheshti's trip to Mashhad to speak throughout the province. In Mashhad itself, in Torbat-e Heydariyeh, in Neyshabur, in Shahrud, in Sabzevar, in Semnan, in Tabas, in Varamin and in Bafq-e Yazd, wherever he went to speak, there were people who came along carrying pictures of the president and chanting slogans intended to disrupt the meetings. However, when they did this for the first time at a meeting addressed by Mr Bani-Sadr, in Esfahan, we were the first people who condemned such a course of action; and we hope that Mr Bani-Sadr, too, would condemn such an act and would candidly say that those people who disrupt meetings in his name and on his behalf have nothing to do with him, and that he would also ask the responsible authorities to put an end to such actions. We would also like our brothers, particularly those people who wield pens, or public speakers, not to indulge in opportunism and not to make use of these incidents to further deviationist goals, whereby a new provocative state of affairs would ensue. Let them come and state the facts and denounce the two sides [as heard] in this course of events, wherever this might be. If we were to react with truth and in a spirit of truthfulness to these realities, we could become more effective.

It is our wish and, I think, that of the Majlis and of all who are friends of this revolution that an end be put to this unreasonable course of events. I think that an atmosphere should be created whereby those who are for and against could present their logical arguments, backed by evidence and in complete calm and confidence. In such an atmosphere, society would grow and criticisms would become constructive. Otherwise, criticisms are destructive.

[Question] In view of your reference to the activities of a few people who carry out such actions and bring about this disruption in the state of affairs of the realm, could one possibly attribute this to the increasingly active presence of the United States in the Gulf of Oman and the state of alert in which it has put its military forces, and could one link these two issues?

[Answer] Of course, these movements are not unconnected with what is now going on in the region. They are related to the war, to U.S. aims and to aims other than those of the United States--aims of those people who fear aggression and exploitation from the United States [as heard]. We know that the United States and others have fifth columns here and that these fifth columns have found the proper time for their actions.

Unfortunately, some of these have manifested themselves as strikes, making use of workers by putting forward welfare demands that at a time of war are both unreasonable and revolting. When a nation is engaged in such self-sacrifices, these people put forward their ideas and aims. Of course, I do not wish to say that every movement in Iran that is against the Islamic Republic is of U.S. origin. Some of these might be leftist or rightist. Some of these might even have supporters in Iran who act independently, but consider the time ripe because the United States is doing the same, our enemies are doing it, and Iraq is also engaged in doing the same; so these people, as their actions become coordinated with other counterrevolutionary actions, find them more effective and make use of such opportunities. It follows, therefore, that in effect they are coordinated with the United States and are pursuing U.S. aims. But it is possible that a great many of them, in their own hearts, are attempting to realize their own aims. [end recording]

QODDUSI ON DETENTION OF BRITISH MISSIONARIES

LD241530 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Interview with Prosecutor General 'Ali Qoddusi by unidentified correspondent, recorded--time and place not given]

[Text] [beginning of interview as heard] [Qoddusi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The reason for their arrest [arrest of the British Anglican missionaries] lay in a report given by a church preacher, a missionary by these gentlemen's own description, to the guards corps of the capital, the Joint Staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic revolution central committee, which said that, in connection with the [Anglican] bishopric, these people were engaged in political activities, had contact and cooperation with the CIA and received money and a quantity of TNT. These documents--which I shall produce in a minute--are not sufficient to prove the crime and allegation from the standpoint of the central committee and that of the joint staff, as well as that of the guards corps of the capital. So the matter was not seriously pursued.

As for how this report reached the Revoltuion Bureau--as you know, there was a revolution bureau under the provisional government that existed until recently--the very gentleman who prepared the report, a man named Shahpur Purpashang, discovering that no one had taken notice of his report, gave it to the guards corps in Esfahan, and the guards, due to the great interest they have in the revolution and in the effort to arrest the opponents and counterrevolutionaries, arrested two of them--Miss Jean Waddell, who is the secretary in the church, and a priest named [name indistinct] Mottahedeh; they were arrested at the Esfahan bishopric and were detained by the Esfahan corps for a month.

As I have said in connection with the Revolution Bureau--one does not know on what grounds, or perhaps they should have carried out a special followthrough [as heard]--Dr Behzadnia got involved and he then insisted that these two gentlemen [as heard] go to Tehran, but the Esfahan guards corps objected and sent them to Evin Prison. These two people then came to Evin.

[Question] I beg your pardon. What is the official position of Mr Behzadnia?

[Answer] I am not sure whether he was working at the Ministry of Guidance at the time, or perhaps had no connection with political and judicial affairs. My guess is that he acted in the context of the Revolution Bureau, for certain matters were pursued by the Revolution Bureau, which had come to us at one point asking us to issue a blanket order for arrests.

It is possible that I may have issued such an order. Of course, I did not give it to Behzadnia. So these gentlemen ordered Dr Coleman and his wife to be brought to Tehran from Yazd, and they were arrested at that time, or, rather. they were detained. Afterward, [words indistinct] church in Tehran was also investigated. Then a gentleman named Fazel or Fazeleh Moqaddam was arrested in the same connection. Of course, the father and mother of this Fazeleh Moqaddam are devout Muslims. This youngster himself was rather unscrupulous. In the course of an affair with a Christian girl, he converted to Christianity and became involved in the church. He was also arrested there [as heard]. And a (Dimitri Bellof) was also arrested there. In connection with all of this, Priest Nosratollah Sharifian was also arrested in Kerman. So, altogether, seven people were arrested in this connection. Only three of them are English, not four as has been reported. These include Dr Coleman and his wife, who have been living in Yazd for the past 34 years, and Miss Jean Waddell, who is the church's secretary. They were arrested in connection with this matter.

[Question] What kind of relationship did these individuals have with each other, making it possible to find them?

[Answer] These are largely [as heard] Christians. Of course, but for this Fazeleh Moqaddam, who was first a Muslim and who later converted to Christianity, they are Christians and are in contact with the church. So one aspect of the investigation took place in the church itself, where several of them were arrested. Dr Coleman and his wife are Christians. Well, all of them are Christians, and they were arrested in connection with the church.

[Question] In connection with their arrest, have they also been found guilty?

[Answer] After these people were arrested they were under the control of Mr Behzadnia, except for the two detained in Evin. And it was they [Behzadnia and his organization] who did the investigation. None of it had anything to do with the judicial organizations. Now, as for the complaint about all of the delays involved, as I have said, it is due to the fact that they were not handed over to judicial courts at the outset. It was only recently that the judicial courts became involved.

The documents this Mr Purpashang produced--when they were investigated, it was found they were insufficient to prove the allegations. Moreover, this Mr Purpashang himself is extremely suspect. He had actually been working in Esfahan's SAVAK, in the internal security section. He was originally in the malaria eradication department, but because of misappropriation, he was fired. He then became destitute. It is not clear how he then managed to use UN Secretary General U Thant's good offices, at the time of the shah. He was subsequently appointed in SAVAK and worked there for 7 or 8 years. He claims to be a member of the national front. He worked with SAVAK for 5 or 6 years [as heard] but was fired from there as well, on the grounds that he was mentally disturbed. So, this gentleman, Shahpur Purpashang, who is the source of all of the information and the problems--well, his documents are deemed insufficient. He claims that the CIA cooperated and with CIA cooperation. [sentence as heard] Then he confessed that I, myself, prepared these letters, without the knowledge of the church. He also forged a number of signatures of former American Ambassador Sullivan. He confessed he forged all of them. He confessed he had prepared the letters on behalf of Sullivan, addressed to Bishop Dehqani. He then stuck to the letter [words indistinct]. He confessed all of this in this manner.

The same applies to the names he cited and the sum of $500,000, which he claims was placed at their disposal. He then says that 300 kg of TNT was placed at their disposal. Well, you can see that a letter that ostensibly came from the CIA has the Iranian bishopric letterhead. He made a mistake when forging the letter. The letter has the letterhead of the bishopric, ostensibly sent from the CIA.

In addition to his own written confession, which I have just shown you, there is a tape recording of his confessions. So, these documents are forged and are not bona fide. When confronted with the Anglican missionaries, he appologized profusely to them for having caused their imprisonment.

So, on the strength of these documents, we can no longer detain these people. Well, I do not want to exonorate the bishopric or the church. No, there have been many matters relating to the church, particularly where Bishop Hasan Dehqani is concerned. We have some odd letters at our disposal. We know of certain connections. But none of this has any bearing on the current issue.

[Question] So these persons were arrested only on the basis of the allegations made by this Mr Purpashang?

[Answer] Yes, only that. The evidence proving the accusations against them consisted only of these letters of Mr Purpashang.

[Question] You mean this was enough for the judiciary to order their arrest?

[Answer] The judiciary did not arrest them, as I said before. When this matter was submitted to the joint staff and the central committee and the guards corps, they considered the evidence inadequate from the very beginning. As I said, in connection with the guards corps in Esfahan [words indistinct] and then this was submitted to Dr Behzadnia and it followed from there.

[Question] How long have they been under the supervision of the judiciary?

[Answer] A very short period. It is not more than 3-4 months that the judiciary has been investigating their case--it is about 200 days now [words indistinct].

[Question] So, from the point of view of the revolution courts, these people are innocent and should be freed?

[Answer] It means they have been cleared of this accusation. The affairs of the bishopric and the church are different, but we cannot detain them on the basis of those [word indistinct]. Of course, we have many documents from Shapur Purpashang himself and we think there are still other issues to be revealed by him, because some of the things he says are in connection with past murder cases and there is a possibility that these cases will be investigated. Therefore, aside from Shapur Purpashang, the evidence--in our view--is not sufficient to detain the rest.

[Question] What was Mr Purpashang's motive? He seems to be very suspicious and we have some evidence against him.

[Answer] When we asked him, he said: I wanted to take the church out of the hands of foreigners. These are his own words, in his own handwriting: I hoped for a native and independent church, but when I was transfered to Tehran I saw--these are the documents he refers to--I saw there were documents in connection with (?members of) the air force, ground forces, and officials of the American and British Embassies who had joined the church.

So I began to think, and came to the conclusion that I would take the hope of having a native Iranian church to my grave, which could not be the case; so this was the outcome. All in all, what he says is that he wanted to have a 100 percent Iranian church, without connections with foreigners. My intention in preparing these documents was to remove the hand of foreign embassies from the church and to build a national, Iranian church, without the intervention of diplomatic officials.

[Question] Is Mr Purpashang a Christian?

[Answer] About Mr Purpashang himself, I said Mr Purpashang was born 48 years ago. When he was 32 years old, he became a Christian. He then undertook several years of theological studies and became a priest. He served for many years in St Paul's Church in Tehran. He was then transferred to the Esfahan bishopric. He was a Muslim who converted to Christianity.

[Question] When will these people be freed?

[Answer] From our point of view they can be released any day, tonight, tomorrow or the day after. But from the point of view of the government's relations, we have two students, as you know, who are being detained there [in Britain]. And although these people are being treated very well here and they have admitted this, although it has been documented on tape and with written evidence that they have been treated well, our students have been ill-treated there. We have a cadaver there as well, the body of Mr Tehrani that, unfortunately, was not handed over to us until recently--and then when they did hand over the body, under pressure, only the head was handed over; the torso was said to have been destroyed in the explosion. If there are no problems as far as the government's relations with the British are concerned, then, from the point of view of the judicial officials, there is nothing to prevent them from being released, except for Purpashang. The other seven, three of whom are British and four Iranian, can be released.

[Question] What do you mean by the relations between the two countries?

[Answer] That is to say, if they ask that these students be handed over in return for their release. It might be that they will use the issue to launch an undesirable propaganda campaign, just as was done with other hostages. It was found necessary to prepare documents to show what the issues really are. From the point of view of the judicial branch, there is nothing to hinder their release at any time.

[Question] [repeatedly interrupted by Qoddusi] So, in the near future, they...[Qoddusi interrupts]

[Answer] Yes, this is the case in my view.

[Question] Would you like to make any further comments in this connection?

[Answer] I would like to emphasize once more that we do not intend to exonerate the church and the bishopric. Rather, during this time, whatever evidence has been discovered shows that their attitude opposed the Islamic revolution of Iran. For example, please note that in this letter, dated 10 December, 1978, from the international bureau of the Protestant students fraternity, connected to the bishopric, it is written: Pray to God that his majesty will overcome the situation and that there will not be a strict Muslim regime in power in Iran. Once again they are officially misrepresenting the Islamic revolution of Iran in some Esfahan churches.

In another document it is revealed that William Sullivan, the former American ambassador, and the head of the CIA were in contact with them and sums of money [words indistinct] this Purpashang, in addition to his job, had connections with Germany, Holland and Britain under the cover of business, but in fact he received money from them, in addtion to the money he received from the Pahlavi Foundation, from Farah, Hoveyda, the NIOC, from Dr Eqbal; all of them worked and received sums of money. [as heard] But as I said, these are separate from the accusations made against the British detainees. Therefore, we should follow that issue, the issue of the bishopric and the church, separately.

[Question] Considering the fact that these people are innocent from the judicial point of view, who is responsible for their arrest?

[Answer] As I mentioned, those chiefly responsible are the people who arrested them, naturally, since the judiciary had nothing to do with this issue. As I said, I, in connection with the Revolution Bureau, issued a general decree to the effect that if a counterrevolutionary attempts to leave the country or conspires to attempt to leave, and if there is a possibility that he might get away, then, if one of the articles of the revolution courts or offices of public prosecutors applies, he can be arrested. But we had not said they [the British detainees] should be arrested or detained, in connection with their case. Still, we cannot say that they are saintly people, whose arrest caused such a noise. They are an undesirable crowd, but from the point of view of the judiciary and as far as this accusation is concerned, this cannot be proven. But, as I said, the bishopric and these churches--according to these documents that you see--have been and are active in Iran. One of them, Bishop Hasan Dehqani, is active in London, doing his best. Others are active in other countries and they were all connected to these same churches. They are not that innocent, but they are innocent of this accusation.

AFP: MISSIONARIES RELEASED, AT TEHRAN AIRPORT

NC250922 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Tehran, 25 Feb (AFP)--Three British Anglican missionaries were taken to Tehran airport today to leave Iran after being held for more than six months on spying charges.

The three, John Coleman and his wife, Audrey, and Miss Jean Waddell, were accompanied by Terry Waite, the envoy of Britain's Anglican Church leader, the archbishop of Canterbury, who has been negotiating for their release.

The missionaries, who have been at a "government reception center" since Sunday, were expected to board today's Iranair flight for Paris via Istanbul and Frankfurt.

AFP: PASSPORT PROBLEMS PREVENT BRITONS' EXIT

NC251048 Paris AFP in English 1043 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Tehran, 25 Feb (AFP)--The three British missionaries released after more than six months in an Iranian prison were prevented from leaving Tehran today because of passport problems, the prime minister's office said.

No further details were available on the nature of the problem, but an official said the three, John and Audrey Coleman and Miss Jean Waddell, could "perhaps" leave on a future flight.

The missionaries, who are accompanied by the archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, Terry Waite, were expected to fly out today by the Iranair service to Paris via Istanbul and Frankfurt.

BANI-SADR RECEIVES ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES

GF241155 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and armed forces commander in chief, has received messages of congratulations on the second anniversary of the Islamic revolution's victory in Iran from the presidents of Sudan, Czechoslovakia, Burma, Guinea and Brazil, the (?acting) president of the SRV, the king of Saudi Arabia and the chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY Supreme People's Council.

BEHESHTI DISCUSSES TRADE WITH DANISH AMBASSADOR

LD241116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] The Danish ambassador to Tehran met this morning with Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court. PARS reports that expansion of economic relations between Iran and Denmark was one of the topics discussed at this meeting.

ENVOY EXCHANGES VIEWS WITH FRG PRESIDENT

LD241844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau, quoting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reported: Mahdi Navab, the Iranian ambassador to the FRG, presented his credentials to the president of this country yesterday. During the ceremony, Mr Mahdi Navab told the FRG president that the nation of Iran has gained its freedom and independence through many self-sacrifices and intends to preserve its identity and determine its own fate.

He added that the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on independence from East and West. We acknowledge the right of every nation to decide its own destiny and condemned any kind of oppression and colonialization.

The president of the FRG said in reply: Relations between the FRG and Iran are based on old traditions, mutual interests and bilateral cooperation. The FRG attaches great importance to friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran, with its old culture, talented nation and geographical position, is one of the important countries of the world and we respect your revolution, which has brought a new sociopolitical framework to your country. We hope that an everlasting peace will replace the war that your country is engaged in, as soon as possible, so that you can attend to your great duties with peace of mind. For this purpose, the FRG will be your friend and helper.

DELEGATION HEAD HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN SYRIA

JN241956 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus--Jalaleddin Farsi, head of the Iranian delegation now visiting Syria, held a press conference at SANA headquarters today. Farsi praised the strong relations that bind the Iranian revolution and Syria. He said: Our relations with the Syrian Government and peole are genuine relations. We highly appreciate the stand of steadfastness and confrontation taken by the Syrian Government and people against the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies in the area. We also appreciate the sacrifices Syria is offering in this field to defend the issue of Palestine, which is the central issue of the Muslims and Arabs. We are proud of these consistent and principled stands.

On the consequences of the Iraqi-Iranian war for the Iranian arena and the Arab region, Farsi stressed that the Islamic revolution in Iran shattered the strongest imperialist bastion in the area, strengthened its relations with the Arab people and shifted the balance of power in the area in favor of the peoples in the area and against imperialism and Zionism. [sentence as heard]

Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Ba'th Party assistant regional secretary, received the Iranian delegation under Jalaleddin Farsi this evening.

FRANCE TO SEND ANTIGUERRILLA FORCES TO IRAQ

LD242054 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] PARS NEWS AGENCY reports from Beirut: The news bulletin of the Iraqi Islamic Party, Ad-Da'wah, in Lebanon quoting the Lebanese magazine FOREIGN REPORTS, announced: The French Government has accepted the request of the Iraqi Government for sending (?a detachment) of the French military antiguerrilla forces to Iraq in order to fight against the revolutionary operations. One French officer who is an expert in this field was ordered to go to Iraq in order to study the situation in that country. A French group, too, will be soon dispatched to Iraq in relation with the above agreement.

'HOSTILE' FRENCH ACTS AGAINST IRAN LISTED

GF241920 Zahedan Interantional Service in Urdu 1530 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The supply of Mirage planes to Iraq by France and its refusal to give Iran the gunboats for which Iran has already paid will by no means be the last hostile act by France against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Here is a summary of the hostile acts committed by France against Iran:

After Iran's Islamic revolution, the French Government hoped to hold the status of a favored nation in Iran, in return for the treatment it meted out to Imam Khomeyni. France thought that the Iranian Government would allow it to take the place of the United States in Iran and would expand economic cooperation. Thus France would be able to gain what the United States used to plunder. But the French leaders' speculations proved to be wrong and the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite pro-West elements, stuck to the policy of "Neither East nor West" and based its relations with other countries on equality and neutrality. Iran did not discriminate among the United States, the USSR, France and Germany, and did not allow any of them to treat Iran in any way they pleased.

When the French leaders realized that their hopes had been dashed, they, pursuing their imperialist policy, tried everything to harm the Islamic Republic. France did not resort to a military operation to harm the Islamic Republic, since imperialism is equipped with innumerable contrivances through which it can achieve its sinister designs. France used the following schemes to avenge itself on the Islamic Republic of Iran:

It harbored anti-Iranian elements and associates of the former Iranian Government, under the guise of liberalism, and openly supported them. It reacted strongly against Muslim Iranian students who demonstrated against the supply of Mirage planes to Iraq by France. It refused to supply gunboats to Iran for which Iran had already paid. It supported Iraq against Iran, as reflected in the repeated statements of support for Iraq by the mayor of Paris, [name indistinct], who held Iran responsible for the war. It dispatched special messages to Saddam from President Valery Giscard d'Estaing emphasizing the need to expand bilateral economic relations.

The first Mirage squadron was supplied to Iraq and France promised to supply the rest of the planes. It signed a new agreement with Saddam's government to equip the Iraqi Army with ground-to-air missiles. France's animosity toward the Islamic Republic springs from considerations of economic gain. France knows that it would be deprived of invaluable economic gains in Arab countries where reactionary elements are in power if it were to improve relations with Iran. For the sake of these economic gains, France, ignoring humanitarian values, has supplied Mirage planes to Iraq, to enable it to bombard Iranian civilian abodes and industrial establishments.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow any foreign power to plunder its wealth. France is well aware of this fact. It thinks Iran can at most condemn France through a statement for supporting the Ba'thist Government of Iraq, but, in contrast, the reactionary Arab leaders will be very pleased with it. France also knows that its ties with Iran's friend, Libya, are virtually at an end. It can, therefore, safely support Iraq without harming its economic gains and can turn a cold shoulder to Iran.

A study of the economic gains in Iraq will underline the importance of support for Iraq by France and the Western world. It is a well-known fact that European countries import 80 percent of their oil from Arab countries. France imports 24 million tons [as heard] of oil from Iraq annually. Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz toured France before Iraq resumed its supply of oil to Western countries. He gave French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing a special message from Saddam. It was agreed during the meeting that France would install ground-to-air missiles around Iraqi oil refineries in return fpr oil. It also agreed to reconstruct the Iraqi oil refineries destroyed by Iranian forces during the war. It took 6 years to complete the Basra oil refinery and 30 years to develop the Kirkuk oil refinery, the biggest Iraqi oil refinery. France will gain considerable economic benefit from rebuilding these refineries. According to one report, Iraq suffered a loss of $10 billion as a result of the destruction of its oil refineries by the Iranian Air Force. Its military loss is supposed to be even greater. The task of rehabilitating the army will also be assigned to Western countries. It is also a well-known fact that France has also given an atomic plant to Iraq. Part of this atomic center was destroyed by the Iranian Air Force. Its reconstruction will also be assigned to France.

France's 1975 exports to Iraq totaled about 3 billion francs, jumped to 7 billion francs in 1979 and 10 billion francs in 1980. There are many other projects that France is involved in. French experts are working in Iraq. France has also establishing lucrative trade relations with other reactionary countries of the world. These include Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan. It is clear that French-Iraqi and French-Arab trade relations will yield tremendous benefit from France, at Iran's expense, but in reality they will prove harmful for France.

BANI-SADR INSPECTS KHUZESTAN INSTALLATION

LD241748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Text] According to PARS, President Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, commander in chief of the armed forces, in Khuzestan for the purpose of supervising operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited one of the installations behind the front this evening.

He had visited this place 2 days ago and today's visit was for the purpose of inspecting progress in logistical operations. During this inspection, on which the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran accompanied the president, Dr Bani-Sadr chatted with the workers and officials in charge of the installation. The president, while encouraging and thanking the workers and the officials, called upon them to continue to increase their efforts.

LAHUTI SPEECHES DISRUPTED BY DEMONSTRATORS

LD241619 Tehran MIZAN in Persian 15 Feb 81 p 1

["MIZAN correspondent" report: "Attack on Mosque During Speech by Ayatollah Lahuti in Kuchesfahan"]

[Text] The attack by persons armed with sticks during the speech by Ayatollah Lahuti at Kuchesfahan ended in a clash in which six people were wounded by gunfire.

According to the MIZAN correspondent, Islamic Consultative Assembly Deputy for Rasht Ayatollah Lahuti arrived in Kuchesfahan at 1000 hours yesterday (Saturday), at the invitation of the Islamic society and bazaar tradesmen, and was welcomed by a large gathering of residents. He then went to the city's mosque to make a speech, but shortly after he began several persons outside the mosque started to chant slogans against him, and then broke several windows of the mosque, following which an uproar ensued and the speech was curtailed. After this incident, people both inside and outside the mosque began chanting slogans in support of the president and Ayatollah Lahuti, when they were attacked by the assailants and the clash began, continuing for about 1 hour. Mr Lahuti's bodyguard and a member of the Kuchesfahan Islamic soceity were wounded in the legs by gunfire, and the car carrying Ayatollah Lahuti was also damaged. In addition, one of the assailants was wounded. It should be noted that a similar incident took place on 11 February in the Kaseh Forushan Mosque in Rasht, when a number of persons prevented Ayatollah Lahuti from speaking.

PUBLIC TRIAL SOUGHT FOLLOWING YAZD 'INCIDENTS'

LD241617 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Feb 81 p 12

[Text] Twenty-three persons have now been arrested in Yazd in connection with the incidents on the afternoon of 22 Bahman [11 Feb]; the inspector of the Islamic revolution prosecutions office in Yazd has begun an investigation. This was announced by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Musavi, Islamic revolution prosecutor for Yazd Province, who commented as follows to the KEYHAN correspondent: "Those arrested will be given a trial, conducted in accordance with wartime regulations, and their punishment will be demanded." The bazaar tradesmen and various groups have asked for a public trial--a point on which no decision has yet been made by the Islamic revolution prosecutions office.

AHVAZ RADIO REPORTS DISSENSION IN IRAQI ARMY

GF221423 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Reporting on information obtained from inside enemy lines, the Khuzestan governor general's office has announced that there is dissension within the Ba'thist aggressor army in the occupied area of Bostan.

Two of the dissenters' leaders have been arrested and transferred to Iraq. The reports also indicate that on some nights in Bostan enemy soldiers are being killed inside houses with guns or bayonets. This is weakening the enemy's morale and is creating fear among the soldiers. According the same reports, Saddam's aggressor experts are forcing captured Iranian youths from the villages of Yazd-e now and Kaviyan, in Hoveyzeh district, to undergo military training or be killed.

RELIGIOUS LEADER DENOUNCES IRAQI GOVERNMENT

GF251030 Tehran PARS in English 0730 GMT 25 Feb 81

[Text] Tehran, 25 Feb (PARS)--An announcement issued yesterday [by] the office of Ayatollah Uzma Shirazi vehemently denied a recent broadcast by radio Baghdad which misquoted the Ayatollah, and made falsified statements.

The announcement, after condemning the crimes of the Iraqi regime, said that the regime of the traitor, Saddam, should realize that its efforts for consolidation of its shaky regime will no longer be of any use and that its vicious propaganda and distortion of statements made by religious leaders, would bring greater disgrace upon itself and its leaders.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 414, 415

414: 23 Feb Battle Roundup

LD231744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Communique 414 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and our popular combatants, with perfect cohesion and high morale, continue to crush the enemy and to relentlessly pound the positions, trenches and fortifications of the aggressors against Islam. With the firm resolve of these true supporters of Imam Hoseyn's school and thanks to the valiant self-sacrifices of these resounding warriors, the aggressive Iraqi forces are dwindling daily and, with the assistance of generous God, the sacred territory of the Islamic homeland will be cleansed of the filthy presence of the enemy. We pay tribute to the efforts and endeavors of our valiant sons and send greetings to all individuals who are imbued with a selfless love of Islam and the homeland. The outcome of the battles by the brave combatants of our homeland over the past 24 hours is as follows:

1. Gunfire directed by the units stationed on the Abadan front at the agressors' positions destroyed two enemy tanks, three military vehicles carrying personnel, two ammunition dumps and a number of foxholes and trenches. Several enemy personnel, including two lookouts, were killed or wounded. In other operations on the same front, five enemy personnel were killed and a number were wounded.

2. In a region west of Khuninshahr, the naval personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran set fire to a trench and an ammunition dump belonging to the Iraqi army and six enemy personnel were killed. Our forces' fire also inflicted losses on enemy forces in the Umm ar-Rasas region.

3. Gunfire by units stationed along the Abadan-Mahshahr highway destroyed one enemy bulldozer and put two more out of action. In these operations, one enemy machinegun nest, one troop concentration area, various foxholes and trenches and one vehicle belonging to the aggressive Iraqi Army were destroyed, while two enemy ammunition dumps and one vehicle carrying fuel were set on fire.

4. The gendarmerie officers of the Islamic Republic of Iran stationed on the Susangerd front, using mortar fire and by accurate observation of enemy positions, destroyed one ammunition dump and several foxholes belonging to the Iraqi Army. There is no information on the number of aggressive Iraqis killed or wounded in these operations. Gendarmerie combatants on the Shush front destroyed two enemy trenches and killed or injured a number of enemy personnel.

5. Three homes were set on fire by enemy artillery shelling in Abadan, while one government building was damaged and three government officials injured.

6. Clashes between our brave forces and Iraqi forces continued in the Kan-e Sakht, Shur-e Shirin, Konjancham and Malakshahi regions, with our forces having superior firepower. In one of these regions, two enemy mortars and their personnel and two observation trenches belonging to the aggressors were destroyed.

7. Several Iraqi aircraft that appeared over the country's western and sourthern border towns were forced to flee by alert air defense fire. They were chased by fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

415: 24 Feb Wrapup

LD241738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Communique 415 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Some of the operations of the self-sacrificing fighters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situation at the battlefronts are hereby brought to the attention of the dear and Muslim compatriots:

1. In the western fronts yesterday, fighting continued with the exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire between the enemy and our forces. On the Meymak heights, firing was most intense from 0600 through 1200. On the Gilan-e Gharb front, as the result of the artillery and mortar fire of the fighting ground forces, one enemy mortar with its crew was destroyed and a number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded.

2. The self-sacrificing fighters of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran clashed yesterday with enemy forces on one of the fronts west of Dezful, but we do not have information on enemy losses and casualties. On another front in that region, the fighters of the ground forces managed to destroy four enemy personnel carriers, one jeep and one RPG-7. On the Abadan fronts, the exchange of fire between our forces and the enemy forces continued. As the result of the fire of the fighters of Islam, 3 enemy tanks were put out of action and more than 10 trenches and foxholes, 1 concrete emplacement and 1 enemy truck were destroyed and set on fire. On the same front, the Iraqi mercenaries opened fire on the residential areas of Abadan, martyring 5 people, wounding 33 others and damaging several houses. On the Khuninshahr front, the exchange of heavy weapons fire continued between the two sides. No figures are available about the exact number of enemy losses and casualties.

4. [As heard] On the Susangerd front, the exchange of fire continued and the self-sacrificing fighters of the Airborne Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, carried out some operations against the enemy armored forces on this front and inflicted some losses on them.

5. Yesterday, a number of encroaching Iraqi planes violated the airspace of a number of cities in the western and southern parts of the country, but were confronted with a counter-attack by the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by anti-aircraft fire from the ground forces and were forced to flee.

6. On 22 February, the self-sacrificing fighters of the armed forces on the Ahvaz fronts opened artillery fire and other heavy weapons fire on the enemy positions and destroyed 1 tank, 1 cannon, 1 vehicle and 1 enemy battery and killed or wounded about 10 of the Iraqi forces. Meanwhile, as a result of the operations carried out on that day, five of the fighting forces of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were killed on all fronts and a few were wounded.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS STATEMENT ON KARKHEH KUR, MIANDOW AB FIGHTING

LD242206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Summary] The following statement was released by the public relations office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, describing the activities of the revolution guards:

A. In the north of Karkheh Kur yesterday, an enemy tank, an antiaircraft gun and an ammunition depot were destroyed and another tank was damaged.

B. The Revolution Guards Corps of Miandow Ab launched a guerrilla attack today on an assembly center of the defunct Democratic Party in the region of Khurabad, 30 km from Miandow Ab, and killed several counterrevolutionaries. Two of the counterrevolutionaries' landing craft were destroyed on the Zarrineh Rud as they approached the village of Dowlatabad, and another assembly center was destroyed by mortar fire. During this attack, 10 misguided individuals were killed, but no accurate data is available on the number of their wounded colleagues. Two of the brother guards also received superficial wounds and were treated immediately.

GUARDS, COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES FIGHT IN BALUCHESTAN

LD220812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced that seven revolution guards were martyred during an armed engagement between a group of armed smugglers and counterrevolutionaries and a group of Islamic revolution guards. The incident took place 70 km from the Khash-Iranshahr road in the [name indistinct] region of Sistan va Baluchestan Province.

SHIRAZ GUARDS SEMINAR SUPPORTS IMAM, RAJA'I

GF222020 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] A seminar of revolution guards commanders from the Fars, Bushehr and Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad Provinces ended in Shiraz yesterday and issued a resolution.

The resolution emphasizes the need to implement the decrees of the imam of the nation, as supreme commander of the armed forces [as heard]. The unquestioning obedience of the clerical rule and the strengthening of the ideological stance of the Friday imam were also emphasized.

The resolution adopted at the 2-day seminar proposes that the war be continued until victory over the infidel forces and the annihilation of Saddam have been achieved. The commanders also announced that they will work to consolidate and support the ideological government of brother Raja'i. The revolution guards commanders expressed support for the crusading clergy, particularly those who follow the imam's policies in running the country. They said that any efforts to weaken or denigrate the clergy, especially the Friday imam, and any counterrevolutionary actions would be resisted and confrontation with the enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran would be continued.

The seminar was convened in Shiraz on Thursday to review the problems created by the war and to thwart internal and external conspiracies, particularly those of the criminal United States.

FORCES BATTLE IRAQIS, REBELS IN KORDESTAN

32 Iraqis Captured

LD231804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Summary] PARS reports from the 28th Army Division of Kordestan stationed in Marivan that yesterday at noon, the Iraqi positions in Panjwin, Diyareh and Tutmal came under severe fire from our forces, suffering heavy casualties and damage. No accurate figures are available on the number of enemy casualties. One report from Marivan says that yesterday, 32 Iraqis entered Iranian soil through Savoji on the Marivan border. They were captured and are held in Marivan. They will later be taken to prisoner-of-war camps.

Warning to Counterrevolutionaries

GF220553 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Court of Kazerun and Mamasani, in a communique, has asked the zealous Muslims of Nurabad to be vigilant and not to allow the small perverted groups and defeated opportunists to threaten the security of the society. In this communique the court also strongly warned individuals against staging sitins or marches at these sensitive times, as they will be dealt with according to canon and civil law.

Clashes With Armed Groups

LD211828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] According to PARS, in various confrontations between the forces defending the revolution and illegally armed groups in Naqadeh, Oshnoviyeh, (Tapeh-e Naseri), Kahriz and the surrounding villages in Mahabad, the forces of Islam, without suffering any casualties, succeeded in crushing the counterrevolutionaries by killing one, wounding two and arresting six. Those arrested were planting mines on a road.

According to Central News Bureau and PARS correspondents, illegally armed groups attacked Miandow Ab with mortars last night.

The attack lasted 6 hours; several residential units in this town were damaged, and six women and children were injured, two of whom are said to be critically ill. They were transferred to hospitals in Tabriz for treatment. The same correspondents report that armed military units stationed in Miandow Ab pounded the positions assumed by the armed assailants along the Mahabad-Bukan road and that the counterrevolutionaries suffered losses. The exact figures are not known.

NVOI LAUDS BREZHNEV'S STANCE ON IRANIAN REVOLUTION

TA232040 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Mr Leonid Brezhnev's speech in the 26th Congress of the CPSU, published by mass media all over the world, is at the center of attention of the world's public opinion and of progressive humanity. The leader of the Soviet Union, when describing the international situation, confirmed that the Soviet Union has directed the main thrust of its foreign policy toward safeguarding peace, reducing convulsions and controlling weapons, especially nuclear weapons. The leader of the Soviet Union--by pointing to the danger of bellicose U.S. policies and the efforts of that country's bellicose circles to expand military bases worldwide and to create a center of convulsions, especially in the Near and Middle East, under the (?hollow) pretext of a threat from the Soviet side--stated that the safeguarding of stability and peace in this sensitive region of the world is only possible through respect for national sovereignty of nations of this region, noninterference in their domestic affairs and closure of military bases, (?these centers of convulsion). Addressing Western countries, Leonid Brezhnev demanded the immediate resumption of talks on limiting strategic weapons.

The Soviet leader also pointed out the increase in and trends of revolutionary movements--especially Islamic movements and revolutions--and, after stressing that the Soviet Union and the communists respect religious beliefs, as well as religions, outlined the contents of Islamic movements and revolutions. He said that a movement under the guise of Islam can be anti-imperialistic, popular and reactionary; the important thing is the contents and [word indistinct] of these movements. Based on this evaluation of the Islamic revolution of our country, Leonid Brezhnev said that the Iranian revolution, which has been an important international event during recent years, enjoys a special anti-imperialist nature. He noted that the people of Iran are intent on continuing their path toward freedom and independence and said that we sincerely wish them victory and are ready to expand our good relations with them, based on equality and the observation of the principle of rights and mutual interests.

The evaluation of our homeland's popular and anti-imperialist revolution by the leaders of the Soviet Union in the congress of the Communist Party of that country, and in front of thousands of domestic and foreign representatives, is a manifestation of the frank stance of our neighboring country, the world's socialist camp and the world's international labor movement on the glorious revolution of our nation. In reality, our neighboring northern country, whether at the beginning of the revolution or in the postrevolutionary period, and despite the misleading and hostile propaganda of the liberals and their writers in newspapers such as MIZAN--writings in accord with the prescription of Brzezinski and the Islam of Carter--against the Soviet Union, has supported and is continuing to sincerely support the revolutionary movement of our nation, led by Imam Khomeyni.

(?Otherwise, it would have been astonishing), since all, including our homemade liberals and their U.S. inspirers, are very well aware of the fact that it has been some time since there has existed a class or classes of colonialists or oppressed in the Soviet Union; and all of the material and spiritual riches of that society are at the disposal of the masses. Everyone is aware of the fact that the Soviet Union and the socialist countries truthfully and sincerely support the popular, nationalist and anti-imperialist movements and it is under the aegis of this total support of the Soviet Union for the progressive, popular and anti-imperialist movements that every now and then a ring in the chain of bondage, neocolonialism and imperialism in one of the enslaved, developing countries breaks, and the nose of rabid U.S. imperialist domination is rubbed in the mud by the able hands of the masses and under the blows of the popular combatant forces.

The homemade liberals and their supporters in the upper echelons who do not feel that the Iranian revolutionary movement, led by the imam of the nation, the great Khomeyni, is going in the direction they desire are panicking from fear of losing their plundering privileges and those of their Western masters. That is why they are exerting efforts to mislead public opinion from the popular and anti-imperialist path of the revolution, by falsifying history, (?sowing discord), engaging in rumormongering and using misleading propaganda.

The subversive activities of the liberals and their writers, especially in MIZAN, do not end here. People with great fever and [word indistinct] and two faces, by resorting to various slanders, have exerted and continue to exert efforts, to relieve their U.S. masters, to level their unjust accusations at our northern neighbor, the Soviet Union. In order to carry out this (?action), they have even surpassed the mouthpieces and writers of newspapers under the domination of U.S. oil monopolies. Fortunately, the true features of many of these gentlemen have been revealed and disgraced by the publication of documents in the U.S. den of espionage by the struggling student followers of the imam's path. These people, however, have still not put down their arms, and in order to inflict blows on the revolution and divert it from the popular and anti-imperialist path of the imam, they resort to any dirty and deceitful method, especially in their (?effort) to strain relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and our northern neighbor.

The statements of the leader of the Soviet Union in the 26th congress of the communist party of that country are a manifestation of a frank stance and sincere support of that country for the revolution and our Islamic Republic. It is appropriate that people who knowingly or unknowingly have fallen into the trap of the liberals and willingly or unwillingly take steps in carrying out their plans be awakened and not equate the friends and foes of the Iranian revolution on the international scene.

NVOI ASSAILS HOSTILE STANCE TOWARD AFGHANISTAN

TA202018 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Millions of the deprived of Afghanistan's towns and villages are engaged in reconstructing their homeland with untiring effort and endeavor.

Despite the subversions, problems and difficulties arising from the plots and conspiracies of world-devouring U.S. imperialism, Maoist China, Pakistan and others, on one hand; and the insincere and even hostile relations of its close neighbor, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the other, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has focused all its potential toward putting an end to poverty and deprivation and securing the welfare and progress of that country. To the acknowledgement of even Afghanistan's enemies, during this short period the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has achieved considerable successes. Agrarian reform and the transfer of the land of the feudalists and big landowners--those who right now are hatching plots against Afghanistan from abroad--to farmers with no or small land holdings is continuing with complete success. The task of establishing schools in all parts of the country, especially in Afghanistan's villages, is proceeding with speed. The government has carried out a series of fundamental measures in industrializing the country. The successes of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan are considerable in the provision of free health and medical care and free education and training at all levels for the people, and in housing construction for the workers and employees. Many of the duped Afghan refugees have now returned to their homeland, and are working, along with their other compatriots, brothers and sisters, on the task of reconstructing the country.

Now, what has caused deep astonishment to progressive mankind is the illogical stance, totally divorced from justice and fairness, adopted by the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. So much so that on the particular Afghan problem, and this is a matter of deep regret, the officials of our country are in the same front with the U.S. puppet regimes, like Ziaul Haq's military regime and Saudi Arabia. Political observers see no reason for such a stance by some of the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Afghanistan other than superficiality, blind fanaticism, mental prejudice and their lack of knowledge about the reality in Afghanistan and, worse still, their obstinacy and stubbornness in refusing to get acquainted with what is occurring in this neighboring country. The officials of our country have labeled as aggression the fraternal aid of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan, intended to repel the danger of aggression and fatal U.S. domination. Whereas, other than world-devouring America and its dependent regimes, one cannot find any government in the world that labels the Soviet Government's act, carried out upon the request of Afghanistan's legal government, aggression.

At the conference of nonaligned countries, the only delegation that left the session of the conference as a mark of protest against the presence of the foreign minister of the independent, free and legal country of Afghanistan was, unfortunately, the delegation of our country, Iran, which caused deep astonishment to all participants in the conference, even to the Pakistani delegation.

In order to warn the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the new plots and conspiracies of the Reagan administration, the ambassador of our close neighbor and of the country that is a friend and supporter of our revolution, the Soviet Union, went to meet our homeland's prime minister. However, the prime minister, with rudeness and in violation of diplomatic standards and etiquette, again raised the problem of Afghanistan. He labeled as aggressive and imperialist a country that protects the world's oppressed, that acts as the flag bearer of the struggle against imperialism and the most consistent supporter of the world's liberation and anti-imperialist movement--the Soviet Union.

Another example: The leader of the Iranian delegation sent to the Soviet Union, instead of reviewing problems of interest to both countries, again raised the problems of Afghanistan and talked about the alleged Soviet aggession against that country. This happens at a time when our country is afflicted with numerous problems and difficulties, when wisdom and logic dictate that we seek the utmost assistance of all friends of the Iranian revolution, including our neighboring and friendly country, the Soviet Union, to resolve our homeland's problems and inadequacies.

Adoption of a hostile stance against our neighboring Afghanistan, because of its support by a socialist country, is an act divorced in every way from widsom and logic, arising from blind fanaticism and superficiality. Instead of blind hostility toward the system of emocratic Afghanistan, let us, by pursuing common sense, replace strict fanaticism and superficiality with logic. Instead of judgment through the viewpoint of the Afghan counterrevolutionary fugitives and smugglers, let us closely review and study the facts of life of the people and the country of Afghanistan. Only then can one issue a fair judgment about the revolutionary events in Afghanistan.

NVOI ATTACKS QOTBZADEH, CALLS FOR PURGES

TA131959 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 13 February carried two commentaries.

The first was entitled "A Few Words About Our Country's Foreign Policy." In connection with the second anniversary of the victory of the Iranian nation's revolution, it is appropriate that we review in general the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the post-revolution period, our country's foreign policy has been primarily implemented along two distinct lines. The first line was the anti-imperialist and anti-American course, which enjoyed and continues to enjoy the support and backing of millions of our country's masses. The second line was the course adopted by the liberal bourgeois, who were able to entranch themselves in the government's sensitive posts, and who exerted all their efforts toward rapprochement with the West, and, above all, with U.S. imperialism.

As a result of the victory of the Iranian nation's revolution, a fatal blow was dealt to the plundering positions and domination of U.S. imperialism in our country. The foreign policy measures taken by our country after the revolution were not to the liking of the liberal bourgeoisie. Therefore, they acted feverishly to divert the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran from its popular and anti-imperialist course, and exerted all efforts to concoct self-invented enemies for Iran, in order to separate it from its true friends and natural allies.

The foreign policy of Mr Bazargan's provisional government and that of Dr Yazdi was actually moving toward this course. After the ouster of the provisional government, Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh was appointed minister of foreign affairs, instead of Ebrahim Yazdi. During his tenure at the Foreign Ministry, Qotbzadeh implemented the self-same policy of the dependent compromising liberal bourgeoisie. Qotbzadeh followed a policy of rapprochement with the West, of separating Iran from its true friends and natural allies: the national and people's regimes, especially the socialist countries.

It was no accident that during Qotbzadeh's tenure, no revolutionary measure was taken to introduce revolutionary Iran to the world.

The activities of the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs during Qotbzadeh's tenure were contrary to the requirements of the Iranian nation's popular and anti-imperialist revolution. Qotbzadeh's activity acquired such disgraceful proportions that he was even reprimanded in the Islamic Consultative Assembly and was later detained. His detention met with the approval of the Iranian nation. From the viewpoint of our people, the method of work of the Qotbzadehs and the political course they adopted are condemned. For this reason, the question of a review of Iran's foreign policy was transformed into the day's question.

Fortunately, certain changes have taken place in recent months in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, toward rapprochement with progressive and revolutionary governments. Regrettably, however, there are still certain mysterious hands at work who do not let Iran's foreign policy progress on a popular and anti-imperialist course. Our liberated people need a foreign policy that conforms with the popular and anti-imperialist line of the nation's revolution, and they expect the government to take the necessary measures in this connection.

The second commentary was entitled: "The Necessity of Purging on The Basis of Realism and Revolutionary Stances." The recent publication of documents discovered at the U.S. spy den by the struggling student followers of the imam's policy has exposed the features of another group who at one time occupied sensitive government positions. This group even attained ministerial posts during the post-revolution period. Among the documents is the text of a letter by 'Ali Mohammad Izadi, minister of agriculture in Bazargan's provisional government, to the U.S. consul in Tehran, applying for immigration to the United States. Of course, the true features of 'Ali Mohammad Izadi, this big landowner, were obvious to the knowledgable. Mr Izadi's letter to the U.S. consul, seeking asylum in the United States, was dated 6 months prior to the Iranian nation's revolution.

With this disgraceful record, 'Ali Mohammad Izadi and his associates occupied sensitive posts in civil and military organizations at a time when the nation was demanding the cleansing of all of the country's organizations of the presence of the counterrevolutionaries, elements dependent on imperialism, Savakists and agents of neocolonialism. The people demanded and continue to demand a true purge in the country's administrative organizations and the smashing of the government machine inherited from the corrupt and dependent regime of the monarchy. The liberals and their associates, however, strived with all their power to run the same former apparatus with new faces still unknown to the people.

Currently, a number of U.S. elements have been exposed, as a result of the courageous activities of the student followers of the imam'spolicy. There are, however, numerous U.S. elements who are still operating within the country and who are waiting to play the role required of them by their Western masters. The government apparatus needs to be purged throughout, and the bases for appointments should be personal integrity, sincerity and the commitment of individuals to the revolution and the imam's line.

BRIEFS

NEW GAS REFINERY--PARS has reported that a new gas refinery will be built in Iran. Forty-four gas wells have been opened in order to provide its needs. This refinery, which will be the largest in the world, will be built on 500,000 square meters of ground and will initially be producing 40 million cubic meters of refined gas daily. In the second stage, the refinery will produce up to 80 million cubic meters of gas daily. The refined gas will be used in various industrial fields, including the petrochemical industry. [Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Feb 81 GF]